



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

NEWS SUMMARY

July 23, 2010

**Former Burlington, WI, Man Sentenced to 135 Months in
Prison for Attempting to Entice a Minor and Possessing Child
Pornography.**

United States Attorney James L. Santelle announced that Randall J. Knope, (age: 34) formerly of Burlington, was sentenced yesterday afternoon by the Hon. Charles N. Clevert, Chief United States District Judge, to a term of imprisonment of 135 months. Knope was convicted in early March of one count of attempting to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity and one count of possession of child pornography. Yesterday he received a combined sentence of 135 months. Chief Judge Clevert also ordered a lifetime of supervised release to follow Knope's prison term, with restrictions on Knope's future computer use and his access to minors. Knope will also be required to register as a sex offender.

Knope was arrested on June 28, 2008, after he arrived at a location on the south side of Milwaukee for the purpose of meeting a person he believed to be a 15-year old girl for sex. The meeting had been arranged during on-line chats between Knope and an undercover Milwaukee Police Department detective posing as the girl. Knope arrived at the pre-arranged location with sex aids, knives and machetes. In sentencing Knope, Chief Judge Clevert took special note of these items, saying that he "shuddered" to think what might have happened if Knope had arrived and met a real teenage girl.

A subsequent search of Knope's residence revealed, among other things, a CD-ROM containing numerous images and video files of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Selected images and videos were presented to the jury during Knope's seven-day trial, the first of its kind in the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

This case was prosecuted in federal court as part of "Project Safe Childhood," the Department of Justice's nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children using the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

According to United States Attorney James L. Santelle, “the protection of our nation’s children is a top priority of the Department of Justice, and prosecutions such as this further this priority.” Santelle also praised the work of the Milwaukee Police Department’s High Technology Unit.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Penelope L. Coblentz and Jonathan H. Koenig.

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